

## **“BERING SEA PATROL – ALASKA VETERANS”**

### **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

#### **PREAMBLE**

The BERING SEA PATROL – ALASKA VETERANS is a voluntary, private, non-profit (without real estate) association (originally formed in 1975 as the Bering Sea Patrol Veterans) for the purpose of comradeship to join together at reunions to further the history of the Coast Guard in the Bering Sea and Alaska; to gather artifacts from the Bering Sea and Alaska and to forward such artifacts and memorabilia to various Coast Guard museums; and to render such assistance and cooperation with the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard as he may request.

#### **CONSTITUTION**

We, former officers and enlisted members of the United States Coast Guard, believing in our right to form an association consistent with the precepts outlined in the PREAMBLE above, do hereby declare the formation of such an association to be known as “BERING SEA PATROL – ALASKA VETERANS” OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD.

#### **BY-LAWS**

##### ***ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION.***

1. NAME: This association shall be called the “BERING SEA PATROL – ALASKA VETERANS” of the United States Coast Guard.
2. HEADQUARTERS: There is no permanent headquarters. The designated headquarters shall rotate at or to such places as the elected Chairman shall reside or direct.
3. ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:
  - (A) The officers shall consist of a Reunion Chairman, Vice Chairman and such persons as the Chairman shall appoint to assist him in planning and directing the annual reunion or biennial reunion.
  - (B) All Past Chairmen shall serve as an Advisory Council to the Chairman in office.
  - (C) The Chairman shall be appointed by the vote of the members at the reunion held annually or biennially or at such other times as the members concur.
  - (D) In the event of the Chairman’s demise, resignation or removal for cause, the Advisory Council shall select or appoint a member to act as Chairman until a regular vote of the membership is held.

##### ***ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP.***

1. Regular Membership in the BERING SEA PATROL – ALASKA VETERANS ASSOCIATION SHALL CONSIST OF:
  - (A) Those persons who sailed in the Bering Sea as members of the U.S. Coast Guard and former members of the U.S. Coast Guard who sailed in the Bering Sea subsequent to their release from the Coast Guard.
  - (B) Active duty, retired and former members of the U.S. Coast Guard who served on active duty in Alaska (17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District) for a continuous period of twenty-one (21) days and/or qualify to wear the Coast Guard Arctic Metal for duty in Alaskan waters. **(Amended 26 September 1998 by membership vote Branson, MO.) (Amended September 2004 by membership vote Niagara Falls, Canada.)**
2. Non-voting associate – members shall be adult persons deemed worthy of the reunion association by recommendation of a regular member in good standing and upon approval of the elected Chairman.
3. Widows of regular members shall be considered as members in good standing and shall be dues free.
4. The Chairman and his appointed committee may, from time to time, award honorary membership to distinguished individuals to further the objectives of the association.
5. Persons qualified for membership or associate – membership shall be admitted upon submission of an application for membership, accompanied by payment of such dues as the regular membership shall prescribe.

##### ***ARTICLE III – FEES AND DUES.***

1. There shall be no initiation or entrance fee.
2. Regular membership and associate-membership annual dues shall be \$20.00, payable in advance. Annual dues shall be set by the vote of the regular membership at the annual or biennial meeting.

##### ***ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS.***

1. With the advice and consent of the Advisory Council, the elected Chairman shall set the dates and meeting site of the annual or biennial reunion.

##### ***ARTICLE V – RESIGNATION, ARREARS, EXPULSIONS.***

1. RESIGNATIONS: Members desiring to terminate their membership shall submit their resignation in writing to the current Chairman.
2. ARREARS: Any member who has not paid his annual dues prior to the first day of April shall be placed on an inactive list, but will remain on a selective mailing list for two (2) years from that date. Thereafter, the member shall be completely dropped from the membership rolls.

- (A) A member that has been placed on the inactive list or dropped because of non-payment of dues may be reinstated with no penalty by submitting a request for membership with the current year's dues.
3. **EXPULSIONS:** When it appears to the Chairman that the continued membership of any member is contrary to the best interest of the association or has brought or would bring discredit to the U.S. Coast Guard, or the association, then that person shall be dropped from the membership rolls. No such action shall be taken except for good cause shown and upon notice and opportunity for the member concerned to submit comments as the member desires.

***ARTICLE VI – NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.***

1. Any member in good standing, after indicating his willingness to serve, and in attendance at the annual or biennial reunion, may be nominated as Chairman by any other member in good standing. The Chairman shall be elected by the members in attendance at the annual or biennial meeting.
2. The newly elected Chairman shall appoint a Vice Chairman and committees as he feels necessary to assist him in his duties.
3. The Chairman of the preceding year shall be the President of the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council shall consist of all Past Chairmen who are members in good standing.
4. The Chairman being relieved shall turn over all funds and records to the succeeding Chairman as soon as practicable, but not later than sixty (60) days after the election meeting. He shall verbally advise the new Chairman, and members at the annual or biennial reunion, as to the financial standing of the organization. A written report on the financial status of the organization will be furnished by the relieved Chairman to the membership in a newsletter prior to the first day of December following the meeting.
5. In the event of a prolonged absence or disability of any officer, either elected or appointed, the Chairman or his Vice Chairman shall declare that office vacant and appoint another member to fill the vacancy.
6. The Chairman shall maintain accurate records of names of members, dues paid, donations, and expenditures and shall report the status of the organization to the membership at the reunions.

***ARTICLE VII – ACCOUNTS.***

1. The financial records shall be available to any member in good standing.
2. The financial records of the association shall be audited in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, during the annual or biennial reunion meeting, by the Vice Chairman and two other members. The records shall be audited at such other times as the

President of the Advisory Council deems necessary by a committee appointed by the council.

- (A) For income purposes, the accounting year will be from 1 December to 30 November the following year. (Amended 26 September 1998 by membership vote Branson, MO.)
3. Accurate record must be maintained for income tax purposes. The association tax account number is: 911-26-8430.

***ARTICLE VIII – INCOME AND PROPERTY.***

1. Income shall be from dues, donations, souvenirs and promotions. Any income realized from souvenirs and/or promotions shall be considered as a donation and shall remain as funds of the association.
2. Costs for meals, cocktail parties, VIP dinners, etc., shall be determined by the Chairman who organizes the reunion. Association funds shall be sufficient to pay for the entertainment, dinners, gratuities and such other expenses as may be incurred.
3. The out-of-pocket cash expenses for arranging the annual biennial reunion, such as ferry fares, automobile mileage, postage and other reasonable monies shall be reimbursable to the Chairman and designated assistants. An accurate record, and receipts, for those costs shall be maintained and made available to the membership. Reimbursement for these costs shall be withdrawn from the organizational funds.
4. No property shall be held by the association, except flags, ensigns, banners, tape-cassette players, and clerical materials necessary to maintain a reasonable organized record of the membership and its business transactions.
5. In the event of disbandment of the BERING SEA PATROL – ALASKA VETERANS association, all monies shall be dispersed, and records and other items disposed of, as recommended by the Chairman and voted on by the Advisory Council. Coast Guard charitable organizations and museums shall receive priority consideration.
6. Any and all monies willed to the BERING SEA PATROL – ALASKA VETERANS association shall be deposited directly into the general fund for use in furthering the PREAMBLE precepts, objectives and charitable goals.

***ARTICLE IX – LIMITATIONS.***

1. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Constitution and By-Laws, the BERING SEA PATROL – ALASKA VETERANS, of the U.S. Coast Guard, are limited to and shall include only charitable, scientific, historical and military veterans within the meaning of these terms as used in the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code and all references to the objectives of the association shall be construed to include such limitation.

**ARTICLE X – BYLAWS.**

1. CHANGES: A request for change to the By-Laws may be submitted by any member in good standing. Request for changes must be submitted to the President of the Advisory Council at least 90 days prior to a regularly planned reunion. A change is defined as any alteration that materially affects the intent and/or meaning of the Article being considered. Corrections to the By-Laws that change neither the meaning nor intent of the Article under consideration will be determined by the Advisory Council and current Chairman. Notice of such changes and/or corrections will be presented and voted on by members in attendance at the next regular reunion meeting.
2. Roberts Rules of Order shall be the controlling factor in all official meetings.

SUBJECT TO CHANGES BY THE GENERALMEMBERSHIP, THE FOREGOING CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS ARE HEREBY VALIDATED THIS FIRST DAY OF JANUARY 1992:

*Copied from original document dated 1 Jan. 1992  
Amended 26 September 1998 and September 2004*

PHILANTHROPIC PROGRAM

PREFACE

This charitable mission has been established to provide the organization a worthy “sense of direction” and compliment the joyous reunion comradeship with a knowledge of philanthropic accomplishment

PURPOSE

To quietly give charitable financial aid, in the form of cash “grants” without the need of formal application by a recipient. Eliminate time-consuming bureaucratic processing and minimize recipient’s discomfort. A “recipient” is a person or group that is deemed legitimately in need of financial aid.

ORGANIZATION

I. AUTHORITY.

- A. The program shall be administered under the direction of the current Reunion Chairman, with the advice and consent of the current Reunion Vice Chairman, Advisory Council Chairman, and Charitable Fund Raising Chairman. No financial aid will be dispensed without majority approval of the foregoing officers.

- B. The Charitable Fund Raising Chairman shall be appointed by the current Reunion Chairman with the advice and consent of the Advisory Council Chairman.

II. RECIPIENT CATEGORIES

- A. Coast Guard retirees and spouses of CG retirees.
- B. Worthy legitimate charitable groups – preferably CG related
- C. Special case aid to active duty Coast Guard members/families.

III. QUALIFICATIONS.

- A. Financial need due to any catastrophic event.
- B. Legitimate charitable group with worthy causes.

IV. RECIPIENT SELECTION.

- A. By recommendation of any regular member and approved by the program officers (para. I. A.).

V. FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS.

- A. A minimum cash grant of \$100.00 and maximum of \$1,000.00 to individual recipients and/or charitable group; but in no case should a grant exceed 90% of the existing Charitable Fund balance.
- B. A maximum of 10% of existing Charitable Fund may be used for administrative purposes.

VI. REPORTING

- A. The charitable work shall be reported ONLY to the general membership at the reunion’s annual business meeting, plus a written report annual to the members not attending the reunion. The names of recipients shall NOT be publicized.

VII. QUIET DIPLOMACY.

- A. In order to eliminate anxiety and anticipation, the recipient should be unaware of “proposed” assistance. Whenever possible, the aid check should be delivered “personally” by a BSP-ALASKA VETS member to the recipient (or their agent).

## REMARKS

Although this program supplements the Coast Guard HQ MUTUAL ASSISTANCE Program – it is, in many ways, distinctly different. Most notably is the quiet diplomacy and elimination of bureaucratic processing and “labeling”.

Although this program is modest, if handled with sincerity, the membership will experience a “good feeling” and stand tall among retiree reunion groups. Additionally, this philanthropic program supports BSP-ALASKA VETS tax-exempt status in the State of Nevada and under the Federal IRS Code section 501 C(19).

SUBJECT TO CHANGES BY THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP, THE FOREGONG PHILANTRHOPIC PROGRAM IS HEREBY VALIDATED THIS FIRST DAY OF JANUARY 1993:

Copied from original document dated 1 Jan. 1993